

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, before line 3, the paragraph beginning with "The invention pertains" insert the following title and paragraph:

-- **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2003/007156, filed on 4 July 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Many checking means and methods have been developed to check and to guarantee the quality of the output of raster-scanned image data on suitable output machines. As a rule, this checking procedure is carried out after the completion of the output on, for example, an image setter or Computer-to-Plate (CTP) system and is based on the evaluation of control elements which are output jointly with the image data. These control elements can be evaluated visually or automatically. --

Page 2, before line 16, the paragraph beginning with "The task of", insert the following title:

-- **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~The task~~ An object of the invention is to provide a method which makes it possible to evaluate and to control, accurately and objectively, output-specific quality parameters of scanned image data, which method also guarantees that quality defects which are based on the nature of the scanned image data can be reliably detected before the output of the data. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~The task is accomplished~~ object is met according to the invention in that output-relevant quality parameters of the scanned image data are checked by an evaluation unit, and in that deviations from the reference variables in question are determined. The output-relevant quality parameters are parameters other than those related to technical suitability for output (i.e., other than resolution and image size). --

Page 4, before line 15, the paragraph beginning with "The invention is", insert the following title:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** --

Page 4, before line 20, the paragraph beginning with "In the prepress", insert the following title:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

-- In the prepress phase (1), a Postscript Raster Image Processor (RIP) system (2) generates scanned image data (3) and makes them available for the next step. These data are stored initially as 1-bit TIFF files in a local image memory unit (4), i.e., on the hard drive of the RIP system. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The scanned image data set (3) contains a control wedge block (5) in a defined area; this control wedge block is inserted before the calculation of the scanned image data by the Postscript RIP system (2) and has defined tone values in defined fields. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Before this transfer takes place, the evaluation unit (9) first reads in the area of the scanned image data set (3) which contains the inserted control element. Then the evaluation

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unit (9) analyzes the individual fields of the control ~~wedge~~ block (5), thus determining the area coverage and the screen frequency. These values are compared with the values of reference parameters, which, together with appropriate limit values, have been stored in a database (10) specifically for the customer order in question. --

Page 6, line 1, amend the title as follows:

-- Claims What is Claimed is: --